



## II THEMATIC REUNION THE IX CONFERENCE OF DEFENSE MINISTERS OF THE AMERICAS: BUILDING A THEMATIC AGENDA

*La Paz, Bolivia  
May 17th and 18th, 2010*

Organizers: IX CDMA Pro Tempore Secretariat and RESDAL

### Report

#### **Introduction**

The Conferences of Defense Ministers of the Americas (CDMA) are instituted as a space for dialogue which calls for high-level representatives to discuss guidelines and criteria about the defense in a democratic framework. Since 1995 with the first conference held in Williamsburg, United States, to the eighth held in Banff 2008, Canada, the Conferences have distinguished themselves for the creation of a space that allows the exchange of different points of views and also identify areas of potential cooperation. In that way, they have served as a mechanism of mutual trust.

Civil society participation in these ministerial meetings was allowed for the very first time at the Sixth Conference held in Quito in 2004. Since then it has been an increasing role of RESDAL in the hemispheric process. In this context, the Minister of Defense of Bolivia, as head of the IX Conference to be held in November 2010, solicited the support of the Network for the construction process of the thematic agenda.

Two meetings were organized to start the discussion of the topics about the scenarios and trends on defense matters in the hemisphere. The First Meeting was held on May 10th and 11th in order to contribute to the construction of the thematic agenda through the perspectives of civil society and academia. The Second Meeting convened representatives of defense ministries of the region around presentations of academic experts to share their perspectives.

The meeting took place on two-days-sessions in a flexible and mechanical way of working, which allowed participants to exchange views from presentations of some experts. This had a massive hemispheric representation. The speed of the call and the responses to it, were an indicator of interest to the Conference that exists in different countries.

The views expressed by each representative were not considered official statements of the States, but ideas that helped the debate and deepened understanding.



## **Program and debates**

The opening was made by Loreta Telleria, Secretary Pro Tempore of the CMDA XI. Among her words, she reaffirmed the goal and responsibility of the Secretariat in achieving a thematic agenda that will meet the consensus of all countries in the hemisphere and increase the levels of cooperation.

Then, she expressed the Bolivian hope that the transverse axis for the next ministerial conference will be the building of peace in the region. She put under the participants knowledge the process of national debate with the participation of officials from the Ministry of Defense and Foreign Affairs, parliamentarians, representatives of civil society and social movements through which the agenda was established on the three themes:

- Peace and Conflict in the Americas
- Democracy, Armed Forces and Society
- National Defense and Natural Disasters

After that, Marcela Donadio Executive Secretary of RESDAL, highlighted the fact of how defense issues have reappeared in the limelight of the hemisphere, making this situation a positive moment for dialogue. Finally, she emphasized the role of the Network as a facilitator in this debate. Leaving the organization out of the construction of the agenda for the Ministerial Conference as it is the sole responsibility of governments and civil society.

### *A critical look at the process of the Conference of Ministers of Defense (1995-2008)*

The first display provided by Hal Klepak and Juan Ramon Quintana was intended to make a critical reading of the CMDA's forums from a historical and policy perspective.

Emphasizing his view as historian and his participation in all previous conferences, Mr. Klepak highlighted the enthusiasm that covered the CMDA in Williamsburg (1995) and what has followed. The agenda was under a political moment. It corresponded to the quest of linking the defense and security debate with discussions of policy cooperation in the hemisphere. The U.S. perspective prevailed in that forum but consolidated from Latin American countries. Those who sought to protect the existing security system with a clear interest in maintaining a beneficial relationship of bilateral over multilateral predominance. Thus, although the difficulties and specific problems of bilateral levels were often intended to be brought to the table, defense ministers always try not to do so in order to maintain the dialogue.

Despite these contradictions, the CMDA became the only regular forum in which senior representatives of the Ministries of the entire region can be found in an area of fellowship to exchange ideas, to see the concerns of their counterparts in a relatively favorable. A forum in which no country has sought to exclude itself or be excluded it out. The CMDA has succeeded in establishing a permanent place and a tradition discuss issues of cooperation and issues that unite us. Although always have wanted to raise issues that do not cooperate in this regard, the Ministers always bet on finding them other space.



Thus, the countries have increasingly come to understand that the problems we face are in fact mostly bilateral or sub regional. It has been gradually sidelined the ideals of broad agreements involving all the countries of the hemisphere. Instead, initiatives to create non-hemispheric environments for peace processes, conflict resolution and confidence-building measures are proposed. This is new from Williamsburg, where the approach to build trust between two countries was emerging. With enough time, this type of approach has become common. From that time until today, the possibility of bilateral meetings has increased significantly and their potential for success has grown especially in favorable circumstances.

It should be noted the non-binding aspect of the declarations. A reading of CMDA's documents shows that the thematic agendas have not been dynamic. While it can be rescued the permanent discussion around democracy issue, in many contexts what is designated as a new security agenda have been repetitive themes and issues that are not within the scope of action of the Defense Ministers: drug trafficking, public security, among others. What has taken different forms in the CMDA is organization. The different ways of organizing has resulted in sub discussions enrolling in the margins of the Conference, either because they are more complex approaches to a central level and / or because only address issues which not concern all members.

On the other hand, the political environment has changed over the years. United States has been involved in conflicts in other regions of the world. Solid policies on defense were not able to continue, reformist governments have come forward in promoting processes of ambitious reforms and immediately, the dynamism of the world has moved from hemispheric worlds to smallest ones.

Towards this not very pleasant background, it remains to confirm that the CMDA is the only forum of its kind left: of high-level and hemispheric which allows a flexible diplomacy and that is by definition a positive environment for further dialogue with its limitations.

After that, Juan Ramon Quintana made his presentation to address the national perspective for the next CDMA.

Bolivia is going through a more than five-years-process of profound transformation in the nature of the state and society. The corollary of these changes is the new Constitution, which outlines historically accumulated demands, seeking to reconcile the past with the present. It is a transition to a new State in a peaceful way and exercising the sovereign participation of citizens. One element that transforms the relationship between society and state is the recognition of ethnic and cultural diversity in the Constitution which defines the Bolivian state as Plurinational. Another important element that s the new Constitution incorporate, is the character of the autonomous State. This is a momentous leap that devolves power to the departments, regions and indigenous territories. The final area of profound change is economy. It is recognize in the Constitution the co-existence of economies that can combine their specific dynamics in the country: plural economy where the state does not exclude the market and absorbs all economic activities. The ownership of natural resources becomes only part of the State.



This new state order had an effect on the security and defense dimension. This new phase of strong participatory democracy, change the country's past perception as a source of instability in the region and a permanent social conflict that jeopardized democracy. Bolivia was perceived as a country that could not rule themselves and therefore needed some kind of foreign tutelage in the field of security. Some neighbors and the hegemonic power in the country conceived as a source of insecurity from certain threats that were originated in Bolivia such as drug trafficking, terrorism and arms trafficking.

The new Constitution defines Bolivia as a peaceful state that renounces war. Consequently, any neighboring country or hemisphere can expect from Bolivia neither a belligerent attitude nor a threat to the region's stability. Bolivia is defined as a country that fosters the building of trust and contributing to a regional architecture that allows development under peaceful conditions. It prohibits the installation of military bases in the territory of Bolivia, with the understanding that they are a key factor in the creation of instability and mistrust around the region. Sovereignty has been incorporated in terms of strategic decisions. Previously, the security policy was controlled and guided by foreign governments which produce an extreme militarization of the police and a policization of the armed forces.

Mr. Quintana ended his presentation by highlighting the momentum that we are going through to a new multinational defense doctrine which corresponds to the mentality, culture and values of the armed forces. These now have the mandate to exercise territorial control and protection of natural resources, and have also gained important missions to support development and social policies. The strategic transition that is now Bolivia involved, forced to accelerate the process of nationalizing strategic and have a military mentality much more associated with the citizens' rights, indigenous peoples' rights, with the promotion of a policy of decolonization in the armed forces and reconcile the availability of resources to help them fulfill the constitutional mission of preserving natural resources, sustaining this process of transformation and change, and responding to the sovereign decision of the citizens.

Finally, he expressed the possibility in views of the next ministerial conference to convey the experience of Bolivia in recent years in pursuit of contributing to democracy, stability and peace in the region.

### 1) *Peace and conflict in the Americas*

The presentation was given by Monica Hirst, who first made an analysis of the current regional situation, making a differentiation from the agenda that prevails in the 90s when the ministerial meeting was created. In this new context, she stressed the strengthening of Latin American thoughts with strongly defending of national interests, with concerns about the territory and the defense of sovereignty and the importance of the political ground from which emanate the security and defense policies.

Among the thoughts that arise in this context, she emphasized the current state of fragmentation in the area, powered by a combination of a new generation of disputes and claims. However, a new set of mechanisms were highlighted, such as the treatment of certain claims in international courts which show that the trend in the region is not the conflict. As a



second point of reflection, it was addressed the issue of some distorted views of reality about the recovery of military capabilities and arms purchases from outside the region, and how the measures of trust built and the capacity for dialogue should help to prevent the image of a one-armed Latin America.

Another point of discussion was the regional dimension that public safety, organized crime, drug trafficking have undermined the principle of nonintervention in the region. Other discussions focused on the value of the sub-space, where efforts are made to search for measures of mutual trust between states and positive agendas for cooperation, reaching or coordinated shared experiences in peace operations. In this regard, we must work on a joint project between the different regional bodies dedicated today to issues of defense and security. In turn, it is necessary to strengthen the coordination and understanding between the regional agenda and global agenda, in order not to think in a closed system in the region, but to analyze the irrigation of global processes over regional.

It highlighted the positive of noticing that the region is essentially a one that offers troops to peacekeeping operations before receiving them (except for Haiti). But at the same time, the growing share of the forces of our countries in this type of operation requires a greater awareness of the participation and the dialogue with citizens. On the other hand, she referred to the exemplary nature of the region in terms of confidence-building measures on nuclear policy development, emphasizing the peaceful nature in the use of such energy.

While this set of factors do not constitute the entire region as a zone of peace, it is possible to think it as sub-areas.

*Main points of discussion:*

- How to build unity and a positive synergy. Topics which generate hemispheric consensus. Diversity as a value added.
- Setting themes that are common problems for countries in the hemisphere.
- Coordination of sub-spaces. Experiences and lessons learned.
- Public safety. Drug Trafficking. Organized crime. Illicit arms trafficking.
- Role of the Inter-American Defence Board. Interagency dialogue.

2) Democracy, Armed Forces and Society

The presentation of the workshop was conducted by Marcela Donadio. First, she recalled that the issue of democracy has always been present in CDMA since the first meeting in Williamsburg, where they settled down the principle that mutual security rests on the preservation of democracy, the vital role of military forces, the defense of democratic states, military subordination to the legally constituted authorities, and the openness in the debate and transparency in defense matters. In addition to the reaffirmation of these principles, as in the second meeting in Bariloche in 1996 over the CDMA process, variations can be found that will introduce new issues: human rights education (Cartagena 1998), role of the armed forces democracy, freedom of each country to determine its defense requirements, social responsibility of the defense, civil training and further integration between civilian and



military (Manaus 2000), emphasis on institutional issues, exchanges between ministries, gender (Santiago 2002), the relationship of democracy not only with security but also with stability, peace and development, transformation of the armed forces with respect to the sovereignty of each State (Quito 2004), institutional strengthening (Managua, 2006), diversity and acceptance of different realities (Banff 2008).

She also addressed two key issues of the agenda for the next conference: the need to deepen all the institutional aspects of defense, and to start working in a more specific look inside the military.

In the last fifteen years, reforms have focused on the institutional issue, especially in the creation and strengthening of ministries of defense. There was also progress in military cooperation, mainly in sub-areas, training of civilians including children. An increasingly participation in peace operations has also reinforced this trend to democracy. In terms of transparency, this also had its counterpart. This process experienced by the region in a general way has been a successful one in recognizing the diversity of institutional models adopted. Democracy as the rule has been preserved despite the existence of these different models. Members of the armed forces are miles away to want to be involved in government affairs, except in the situation of Honduras, where in some way this principle has been put into play.

On the other hand, as military instrument models it regards, there are situations where models are similar to those that were implemented in the last century when our states began to think. The defense transformation is the issue that remains of the democratization process in Latin American countries. In this sense, it marked the existence of interesting experiences that can be shared, such as Canada. This must address the diversity. Today these concepts of traditional liberal democracies are not dominant in all our countries. Part of this process of the Conference is to accept the diversity of conceptions.

In this sense, she rescued six themes which could be taken into account: gender, multiculturalism, human rights, education and training, military justice, and recruitment systems. These issues are wide possibilities to advancing in a democratic culture, because in the context of the armed forces that are part of a new building democracy, a definition of roles and structures of these forces are supposed to be a mirror of society that are part . These topics have a direct impact on the democratization of the armed forces as they change the models, open discussions, and implies the acceptance of something different out of the scheme of the unitary model that characterize the state's early designs of the last century .

*Main points of discussion:*

- Civilians-training. Share lessons learned.
- Education exchanges.
- The incorporation of women into the armed forces and decision-making forums. Participation within peacekeeping operations.
- Interculturalism. Resistance to indigenous issues inclusion.



### 3) National Defense and Natural Disasters

The last triggering presentation was done by Roberto Cajina, who began mentioning how the recent tragedies in Haiti and Chile have put at the table of hemispheric and international debate the issue of disasters, he indicates some successes and mistakes in mitigating the crisis in each case. He stressed the point that no attention can be perfect for natural disasters that reach large magnitudes. He also emphasize that every analysis must start from this premise.

There is a consensus in considering natural disaster as a threat to the security of the hemisphere since the Security Declaration in Mexico in 2003. However, there is a lack of conceptualization and methodologies to address the issue.

Mr. Cajina made a description of three models of relationship between national defense and disaster. The first is due to a notion of pre-eminence of civilian crisis management in disaster situations, and a second one refers to a concept that calls for the direct participation and leadership of the military in every action. A final model is a result of mixed views, but still shows many inconsistencies and limitations.

The advantages of armed forces participation are recognized as discipline, command and control capacity, vertical control, fast-acting capacity, rapid deployment and orderly, availability of resources and technical capacity of mass transportation by air, sea and land, and procurement capacity and self-reliance. However, it cannot be avoid the militarization of the scene of the disaster since many areas are referred to this overlap of functions. The point of debate is not in the armed forces' ability to care disaster response but who has the command and control in this scenario. The participation of the armed forces is defined in many countries in the region in a temporarily way but the recurrence of their participation transforms it into a daily mission.

The relation between defense and disasters is complex and marked by two factors: legal and political. The first refers to the constitution and laws of the country. An example of this dimension is that in almost all of our countries the approval from Congress for the departure or arrival of troops is needed which did not speed up disaster response cooperation of other States. The political factor refers to a complex process of decision making by the civilian authorities for the participation of armed forces in disaster mitigation and care. There is no single model. Each country must seek the best way to organize the various agencies involved in terms of three elements: needs, resources and the particular characteristics of civil-military relationship. There should be consistency in the relationship between the different agencies and consistency in the relationship between the country and on international assistance.

Main points of discussion:

- Armed forces participation in risk management.
- Levels of economic development and levels of governance, political and social stability vs. effective care in catastrophe situations.
- Military cooperation over prevention and immediate response in emergency situations. Vulnerabilities and Capacities. Cooperation Protocol. Confidence-building measure. Sense of urgency. Sense of community to the disaster.



- Cuban model of reaction to disasters. Exchange of experiences and lessons learned.
- Limitations on the responsibilities of each agency of the State.

### Construction elements of the thematic agenda

Loreta Telleria made a presentation about the work of the Secretariat pro tempore in view of the IX Conference. As an introduction, she described some characteristics of CDMA under the Regulations, emphasizing the political nature of this multilateral meeting that has become the main body meeting of the defense sector in the Americas. The thematic agenda, through which the debates and exchanges spin in these conferences, it comes as a proposal from the host country and the consensus among its members in the preparatory meeting to be held four months before the Ministerial Conference. The Secretariat has worked in the construction of the thematic agenda from what has been discussed in previous conferences, the topics he wants to project to the rest of the continent, the relevant issues on the hemispheric agenda and regional interests. Among its objectives, it seeks to define this agenda by consensus without the need of vote.

She informed the participants about the organization of the Secretariat, its structure, activities and future programming. The structure has been formed in a multidisciplinary way (civil and military), divided in four areas: business administration (finance), operations and logistics, international relations, institutional (links with ministries of the region) and thematic coordination. Among the main activities that have been carried out, it has been established contact with all ministries in the hemisphere and held a national round table with the goal of building a thematic agenda according to the interests of the Bolivian state. This panel brought together different sectors to discuss how principles of security and defense are building in the Bolivian state with a new constitution that demands a reflection on these concepts in a multicultural state. This table also discusses various thematic lines that Bolivia could propose for the Conference (resulting axes discussed at this meeting). On the other hand, these two thematic meetings organized with RESDAL are of great importance to consider the opinion of academic experts and civil society groups and to have inputs from the people who work in the ministries in order to build the proposed thematic agenda. She made a summary of the important issues raised at the First Thematic Meeting.

Finally, she explained the context in which themes proposed by the Secretariat emerge. She also adds the inputs received at the First Meeting:

- Peace and conflict in the Americas
  - . Existence of conflict scenarios in the region
  - . Arms race vs. upgrading or renewal of arms
  - . Military budget
  - Transparency-reliance Search
- Armed forces, democracy and society
  - . Doctrinal reform of our institutions
  - . Gender and multicultural issues
  - . Military Education and Training



. Regulatory Framework  
Best practices, lessons learned

- Defense and natural disasters
  - . Chile and Haiti
  - . Need for coordination
  - . Need information
  - . Disaster Action Protocols

Finally, she got clear about the challenges ahead: ministers are willing to listen, countries are willing to exchange experiences, and the Conference will create monitoring mechanisms

*Main points of discussion:*

- Conference of ministers, not ministries conference. Find one or two central themes for the debate between ministers. Difficulty to move forward with an overloaded agenda.
- To speak about disagreement points, might turn out to be a reverse in the search of binding sites for what the CDMA was designed. Rhetoric policy vs. domestic policy. Regional cooperation.
- Search of consensus. Prioritize subtopics that reflect the hemispheric interest, depending on the security and defense agenda for each general theme.
- Progress in some kind of monitoring mechanism. How to overcome the difficulty for the responsibilities involved.
- Possibility of analyzing experiences of working mechanisms between conferences like the one carried out by the CEA.
- Progress in the South American Defense Council.

After that, Veronica Gomez, Executive Secretary of the Presidency pro tempore of the South American Defense Council, shared the experience of the Council. In her presentation she highlighted the ways to reduce risk and threat perceptions in the region through the work of the CSD in measures of mutual trust and building trust through transparency. Application procedures were established in binding ways that were approved at the Meeting of Defense Ministers of the Council. Confidence-building measures have addressed the main concerns of the region, effective exchange of information on weapons, military equipment, defense expenditures, transfer of conventional weapons, border areas, drills, exercises and deployments. This process is innovative in the region and for the first time will feature verification and monitoring measures, topping the skepticism about the possibilities of integration in South America. On the other hand, she highlighted as another measure of confidence the adoption of the Statute of the Center for Strategic Studies which will be based in Buenos Aires city. It will be a space for the construction of thought and knowledge diffusion, tending to generate a regional identity on defense. Finally, she mentioned the provision signed by the ministers at the last meeting to articulate a common position towards the next CDMA. The issue has been delegated to Argentina, Chile and Peru for the development of a proposal and the decision of UNASUR of keeping dialogue with the United States on defense, peace and development issues. The whole process was possible by political will and work of all Council delegations. It has overcome the differences by finding consensus on certain issues.



## Conclusions and recommendations

During the last session, each participant expressed their views and ideas about the construction of the thematic agenda. As discussed throughout the event, the central point concerns the need to find topics of common interest and relevance to the entire hemisphere which promote cooperation. In this context, it was considered that the proposed theme of "Peace and Conflict" needs to be thinking. Basically, to ask how much it can be done to pursue confidence-building measures, as the issues discussed at this point are not applicable to all countries in the region.

One issue that generated consensus was Defence and Natural Disaster, in particular:

- Participation of the armed forces in situations of disaster support. Prevention, preparation and response.
- Diagnosis of military capabilities. Cooperation Protocol. Management of humanitarian assistance.
- Lessons learned.
- Natural disasters and Peace Operations. Powers and responsibilities of military contingents.

Some participants raised the possibility of establishing this issue as a single central axis, in order to deepen and make real progress in this regard. For the Caribbean countries, this subject on the agenda gives meaning and value to their participation in the CMDA.

Among other proposed themes were mentioned:

- Democracy, armed forces and society
  - Gender and multiculturalism.
  - Training and military education.
  - Integrating military and society.
- Peacekeeping operations (a differential shaft from natural disaster)

Many of the present expressed the importance of issues related to organized crime, terrorism, drug trafficking, arms trafficking, etc in their country and the use of armed forces in such tasks. But it has been acknowledged that in the dialogue leading process to the construction of the agenda, it can be recognize if this is a not common subject throughout the hemisphere, or that in some countries it is not in the defence field.

Special emphasis was placed on the need to generate some kind of monitoring mechanism that gives continuity to the CMDA and deepens the agreements reached.

To close the meeting, Loreta Telleria thanked the participation of all ministerial and academic representatives, and she highlighted the success and importance of the meeting for the Executive Secretariat, as it allowed the exchange of different perceptions on the proposed items.



The Minister of Defense of Bolivia, Ruben Saavedra Soto made the formal closure of the event. In his closing remarks, he stated the importance for the Bolivian Government to carry out this Ministerial Conference.

With the support of:



Embajada Británica  
La Paz



## **Participants**

- Lieutenant Colonel LUIS ACOSTA ROJAS. Ministerial Cabinet, Ministry of Defense, Ecuador.
- Lieutenant Colonel ROBERT FRANCISCO ÁLVARO. Western Hemispheric Affairs Department of Defense, United States of America.
- Cnl. LUIS ARIÑEZ, Pro-Temporary Secretariat IX CDMA, Bolivia
- NIGEL BAKER, British Ambassador in Bolivia
- C.C JAVIER BALDIVIEZO, Pro-Temporary Secretariat IX CDMA, Bolivia
- Tcnl. JORGE CADIMA PAZ, Pro-Temporary Secretariat IX CDMA, Bolivia
- ROBERTO CAJINA, RESDAL, Nicaragua
- Police Colonel JOSE MEJIA CARDONA. Attaché Office from Colombia to Bolivia.
- ELIZABETH COLOMA, British Embassy in Bolivia
- C.F. CARLOS DEBRECZENI, Pro-Temporary Secretariat IX CDMA, Bolivia
- ALEJANDRO FRENKEL. Advisor, Secretary of International Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Argentina.
- Captain MIKYLA FREDERICK. Defense Force Liaison Officer to CMDA, Antigua and Barbuda.
- VERÓNICA GÓMEZ, Executive Secretary, South American Defense Council, Ecuador.
- REINA GONZÁLES, Pro-Temporary Secretariat IX CDMA, Bolivia
- GUIDO GONZÁLEZ, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bolivia
- CLAUDIA HERNÁNDEZ, Pro-Temporary Secretariat IX CDMA, Bolivia
- MÓNICA HIRST, University Torcuato Di Tella (UTDT).
- HAL KLEPAK, Emeritus Professor Royal Military College, Canada
- SAMANTA KUSSROW, Executive Secretariat, RESDAL
- FAUSTO LOVERA, Pro-Temporary Secretariat IX CDMA, Bolivia
- Colonel ROLAND MAUNDAY. Military Attaché from Trinidad and Tobago to the United States.
- Lieutenant Colonel JUAN CARLOS MÉNDEZ MENJIVAR. Chief, Diplomatic Action Field, Defense Policy Office, Ministry of Defense, El Salvador.
- Cap. IVÁN ORELLANA, Pro-Temporary Secretariat IX CDMA, Bolivia
- Brigadier General ÁNGEL PARRA YARZA. Director, Education Office, Ministry of Defense, Venezuela.
- Captain EDGAR PATTERSON MONSALVE, Defense Attaché from Perú to Bolivia.
- HERNÁN PLANCHÓN. Counselor, Military Education Institute, Ministry of Defense, Uruguay.



- ROSARIO PÉREZ PONCE, Pro-Témpore Secretariat IX CDMA, Bolivia
- JUAN RÁMON QUINTANA, Observatorio de Democracia y Seguridad, Bolivia
- Colonel ALVIN QUINTYNE. Chief of Staff, Barbados Defence Force.
- JOSÉ ROCABADO MENDEZ, Pro-Témpore Secretariat IX CDMA, Bolivia
- Lieutenant Colonel MIGUEL ÁNGEL SANABRIA ALCANTARA. Chief, International Affairs, Secretary of Defense, Mexico.
- SARAÍ SÁNCHEZ COLMENÁREZ. Superior Education Office, Ministry of Defense, Venezuela.
- GONZALO SERRA, Executive Secretariat, RESDAL
- KENNETH SHIELDS. Chief, International Affairs Department, Under-secretary of Defense, Ministry of Defense, Chile.
- Captain ANTONIO RAFAEL SIQUEIRA SANTOS. Advisor, Policy and Strategy Police Department, Ministry of Defense, Brazil.
- JOHN TATTERSALL. Director, Western Hemisphere Policy, Ministry of Defense, Canada.
- Sgto. GROVER TORREZ, Pro-Témpore Secretariat IX CDMA, Bolivia
- Colonel ELÍAS EDIBERTO VELIZ VARGAS. Chief, Staff Officer of Minister Personnel, Ministry de Defense, Guatemala.

Organizers:

- LORETA TELLERIA, Executive Secretary, IX CMDA.
- MARCELA DONADIO, Executive Secretary, RESDAL.



## Program

### May 17th

- 09.00 - 09.45      **Opening**  
*Loreta Tellería (Secretaría Pro Tempore IX CDMA)*  
*Marcela Donadio (RESDAL)*
- 10.00 - 11.00      **A critical point of view to the process of the Conference of Defense Ministers (1995-2008)**  
Presentation: *Hal Klepak*  
*Juan Ramón Quintana*
- 11.00 - 11.30      Coffee
- 11.30 - 12.30      **Peace and conflict in the Americas**  
Presentation: *Mónica Hirst*
- 12.30 - 14.30      Lunch
- 14.30 - 15.30      **Democracy, armed forces and society**  
Presentation: *Marcela Donadio*
- 15.30 - 16.00      Coffee
- 16.00 - 17.00      **National defense and natural disasters**  
Presentation: *Roberto Cajina*

### May 18<sup>th</sup>

- 09.00 - 10.30      **Elements for the construction of the thematic agenda**  
Presentation by the Secretariat Pro Tempore
- 10.30 - 11.00      Coffee
- 11.00 - 12.30      **Dialogue with the ministerial representatives I**
- 12.30 - 14.00      Lunch
- 14.00 - 15.30      **Dialogue with the ministerial representatives II**
- 15.30 - 16.00      Coffee
- 16.00 - 17.00      **Conclusions**
- 17.00 - 17.15      **Closing remarks**  
*Mr. Ruben Saavedra, Minister of Defence, Bolivia*